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Title: Need to sanction Rs. 127 crores for construction/improvement of border road between Ghaduli and Santalpur, Gujarat.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (KUTCH): Sir, I would like to raise a very important issue concerning my constituency, that is, Kutch distrcit of Gujarat regarding construction of one very important road, Gadhuli-Santalpur Road, on the border.

The State Government made a proposal for construction/improvement of border road covering from Ghaduli-Hajpur-Khavda-Santalpur (eight stretches totalling 151.7 kilometres) joining Kutch and Banaskantha districts. The State Government would be in a position to execute the work, which is estimated to cost Rs. 84.95 crore, which was subsequently revised to Rs. 127.119 crore. The proposed work would be completed within 12 months from the commencement of the work. The stretch of 151 kilometres is needed to connect the missing links in the area facing Greater Rann of Kutch so that the mobility and accessibility of our security forces improve further to maintain vigil in an effective way.

Sir, this road is a very important road for Dholavira site also. The ancient historic site of Dholavira has been declared as a heritage site of the Harappan Age, which is of tourist importance. Construction of Khavda-Dholavira stretch will boost tourism activities as tourists will find it easily accessible from Bhuj, which is the district headquarters of Kutch District. Today, to reach this site from Bhuj town *via* Bhachau and Rapar takes about half a day. After completion of the above mentioned stretch from Khavda to Dholavira, it would be possible to reach Dholavira from Bhuj in 2.5 hours *via* Khavda-Kunaria-Dholavira route. This will help tourists to visit Dholavira and come back to Bhuj the same day. Construction of the road will make the mobility much easier.

This will also solve BSF's problems of getting fresh drinking water on daily basis instead of water stored for months. Once the roads are constructed, water pipeline can also be laid along roadsides. This will help cutting the daily recurring expenditure of providing water through tankers.

I therefore urge upon the Government to approve the revised estimate of Rs. 127.119 crore as submitted by the Government of Gujarat as early as possible.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan. I think, you are getting chance first time.